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5 June 1953

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Copy No. 67

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS.

11 DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO. TG 8

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: 12-21-79 REVIEWER: [REDACTED]

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2001

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Department review completed

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SUMMARY

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

4. Heavy Viet Minh pressure in Tonkin delta indicated (page 4).

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. British negotiator attempting to modify London's position in Suez dispute (page 5).

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WESTERN EUROPE

7. Austrians press West for early move on treaty impasse (page 6).

all articles on 5 June were seen by the President

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

4. Heavy Viet Minh pressure in Tonkin delta indicated:

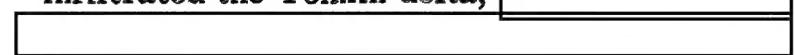
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The bulk of one Viet Minh division has
infiltrated the Tonkin delta, [redacted]

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[redacted] major enemy pressure in the southwest sector of the delta appears to be indicated by the reported disposition of the units of this division.

Comment: There have been other indications that the division referred to is planning expanded operations. The American consul in Hanoi on 3 June noted the threat it posed to Dong Quan, a resettlement project planned to set a security pattern for delta villages. Dong Quan already has been under limited attack and is believed to have a high priority among Viet Minh objectives.

In addition to the one division in the southern delta area, two others are moving into positions northwest of the delta where they will be able to exert pressure on French-held territory.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. British negotiator attempting to modify London's position in Suez dispute:

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[redacted] General Robertson, who with Ambassador Stevenson has been participating in the Anglo-Egyptian defense talks, will offer Prime Minister Churchill some ideas for meeting the Egyptian point of view on technical management of the Suez Canal base. Meanwhile, the Australian minister in Cairo has urged Prime Minister Menzies to discuss the matter first with Robertson, who is now in London, and then with Churchill, in the hope of strengthening Robertson's hand.

In Cairo, Stevenson has suggested that if the United States could find some way to "underwrite" an Anglo-Egyptian settlement, Churchill would feel more justified in modifying his stand. Ambassador Caffrey believes this might mean an American commitment to stand by Britain if Egypt should break any agreement.

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WESTERN EUROPE

7. Austrians press West for early move on treaty impasse:

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[Redacted]
Foreign Minister Gruber, now visiting in London, has urged the Western powers to capitalize on the present exceptional opportunity to fix the blame on the Soviet Union for the current impasse

in the Austrian treaty negotiations. He recommends an early Western note to Moscow, but advises against an attempt to discuss the substance of the treaty through diplomatic channels.

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According to Gruber, Soviet ambassador Malik in London recently evaded a direct reply to his question as to the possibility that an exchange of notes would advance the treaty. Malik reportedly remarked, "Why not try it and see?"

Comment: Disputes among the Western powers over the text have held up both official statements and a new note to Moscow on the treaty since 27 May, when the Russians failed to attend the scheduled four-power meeting. At that time, the Soviet Union invited the West to examine the treaty question via "diplomatic means."

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